

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8 and 10 as follows:

A²
1. (Amended) A ceramic-molding binder, comprising a vinyl alcohol polymer having an ethylene unit content of 2 to 19 mole %, a polymerization degree of 200 to 2,000, a degree of saponification of 80 to 99.99 mole %, a total content of carboxyl group and lactone rings of 0.02 to 0.4 mole %, and having no terminal amino group.

A³
3. (Amended) A ceramic-molding composition, comprising 0.1 to 20 weight parts of the ceramic-molding binder according to Claim 1, per 100 weight parts of ceramic powder.

A³
5. (Amended) A method for producing a ceramic molding, comprising drying an aqueous kneaded material obtained from the ceramic-molding composition according to Claim 3 to form granules, and molding the granules followed by sintering.

6. (Amended) A compression-molding binder for ceramics, comprising a vinyl alcohol polymer having an ethylene unit content of 2 to 19 mole %, a polymerization degree of 200 to 2,000, a degree of saponification of 80 to 99.99 mole %, a total content of carboxyl group and lactone rings of 0.02 to 0.4 mole %, and having no terminal amino group.

A⁴
8. (Amended) A ceramic-compression-molding composition, comprising 0.1 to 20 weight parts of the ceramic-molding binder according to Claim 6 per 100 weight parts of ceramic powder.

A⁵
10. (Amended) A method for producing a ceramic molding, comprising drying an aqueous kneaded material obtained from the ceramic-molding composition according to Claim 8 to form granules, and molding the granules followed by sintering.

Please add the following new Claims 11-20:

A⁶
11. (New) A ceramic-molding composition, comprising 0.1 to 20 weight parts of the ceramic-molding binder according to Claim 2, per 100 weight parts of ceramic powder.

12. (New) A ceramic-molding composition according to Claim 11, wherein the ceramic powder comprises a ferrite powder.

13. (New) A method for producing a ceramic molding, comprising drying an aqueous kneaded material obtained from the ceramic-molding composition according to Claim 4 to form granules, and molding the granules followed by sintering.

14. (New) A method for producing a ceramic molding, comprising drying an aqueous kneaded material obtained from the ceramic-molding composition according to Claim 11 to form granules, and molding the granules followed by sintering.

15. (New) A method for producing a ceramic molding, comprising drying an aqueous kneaded material obtained from the ceramic-molding composition according to Claim 12 to form granules, and molding the granules followed by sintering.

16. (New) A ceramic-compression-molding composition, comprising 0.1 to 20 weight parts of the ceramic-molding binder according to Claim 7 per 100 weight parts of ceramic powder.

17. (New) A ceramic-molding composition according to Claim 16, wherein the ceramic powder comprises a ferrite powder.

18. (New) A method for producing a ceramic molding, comprising drying an aqueous kneaded material obtained from the ceramic-molding composition according to Claim 9 to form granules, and molding the granules followed by sintering.

19. (New) A method for producing a ceramic molding, comprising drying an aqueous kneaded material obtained from the ceramic-molding composition according to Claim 16 to form granules, and molding the granules followed by sintering.

20. (New) A method for producing a ceramic molding, comprising drying an aqueous kneaded material obtained from the ceramic-molding composition according to Claim 17 to form granules, and molding the granules followed by sintering.

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

The specification has been amended to correct an error, which should be self-evident, because there is no "Figure" 4, and the description beginning at page 32, line 1, is clearly with respect to the data in Tables 4A and 4B.

Claims 1 and 6 have each been amended to recite that the vinyl alcohol polymer has no terminal amino group. While this limitation is not explicitly described, it is inherently described. *See, e.g., Kennecott Corp. v. Kyocera Int'l, Inc.*, 835 F.2d 1419, 5 USPQ2d 1194 (Fed. Cir. 1987) (term "equiaxed microstructure" not literally disclosed held to be inherent property of claimed sintered ceramic body); *In re Wright*, 866 F.2d 422, 9 USPQ2d 1649 (Fed. Cir. 1989) (term "not permanently fixed thereto" not literally disclosed held to be described by absence of disclosure of permanently fixed microcapsules); *In re Voss*, 557 F.2d 812, 194 USPQ 267 (CCPA 1977) (term "crystalline content . . . at least 50% by weight" not literally disclosed held to be described by literal disclosure of "glass-ceramic material" coupled with evidence that one skilled in the art would have attributed the recited crystalline content as inherent in that material); and *Ex parte Parks*, 30 USPQ2d 1234 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1993) (board held that the addition of the term "conducted in the absence of a catalyst", which did not appear in the original disclosure, nevertheless complied with the *description* requirement of 35 USC 112). **Copies of Kyocera, Wright, Voss and Parks are enclosed.**